

Words from Two Women

SATB *a cappella*

Jane Marshall

In memory of Neil Marshall

1. Nurture

Mechtild of Magdeburg

Prayerfully ♩ = 52

Soprano Alto

mp

Heal the bro - ken with com - fort - ing words of God.

Tenor Bass

mp

[3] *mp* ♩ = ♩.

Cheer — them gent - ly — with earth - ly

Cheer — them gent - ly with earth - ly, earth - ly

mp

Cheer them with earth - ly

6

mf

joys. Be mer - ry, be mer - ry:

joys.

mf

9

Slower

mp

laugh, laugh with the bro - ken and car - ry their se - cret

mp

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needs in the deep - est si - lence of your heart.

p *rit.* *pp* *ppp*

In memory of Marian McGhee

2. The Simple Path

Teresa of Calcutta

Freely ♩ = ca. 50

Soprano Alto

mp

The fruit of si - lence is prayer. The fruit of

mp

4

prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The

f *mf*

7

fruit of love is ser - vice. The fruit of ser - vice is peace.

mp *poco rit.* *p*

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TEXT

1. Nurture

Heal the broken with comforting words of God.
Cheer them gently with earthly joys.
Be merry: laugh with the broken
and carry their secret needs
in the deepest silence of your heart.

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2. The Simple Path

The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.

Teresa of Calcutta
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PROGRAM NOTES

These two texts convey the spirituality and dedication of women separated in time by seven centuries.

Mechtild of Magdeburg (ca. 1207–ca. 1282) was a medieval mystic and beguine who experienced visions of God from the age of twelve. Her seven-volume collection of prose and poetry, *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*, was composed over twelve years and was one of the first mystical texts written in German rather than Latin.

Teresa of Calcutta (1910–1997) lived most of her life in India, where she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a worldwide religious order dedicated to caring for the poor, the sick, and those who have been shunned by society. Mother Teresa handed out her words on what she called her “business card” to friends and followers.

Jane Marshall (1924–2019) was a composer, hymnist, poet, and teacher. She was a longtime member of the faculties of the Meadows School for the Arts and the Perkins School of Theology, both at Southern Methodist University, her alma mater. Her more than 200 published choral works include *My Eternal King* (1954), *Awake, My Heart* (1957), and many others which have become staples of church choral libraries throughout the United States.